综述

乳腺癌胞外膜泡的研究进展

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摘要:肿瘤来源的胞外膜泡内含各种癌症相关的分子,如过表达的癌蛋白、糖蛋白、信使RNA、各种非编码RNA和DNA片段。这些内容物与乳腺癌表型特征传递密切相关,如乳腺癌的耐药性,增强的增殖能力和侵袭性和介导抗肿瘤免疫。因此,肿瘤来源的胞外膜泡作为一种新的肿瘤标记物和治疗靶点得到越来越多的关注。与循环的肿瘤细胞不同的是体液中胞外膜泡异常丰富。相对于与循环系统中的分子标记物,胞外膜泡可以保护泡内分子标记并防止其降解。同时胞外膜泡还携带有特定表型乳腺癌的分子标签。本文总结了关于胞外膜泡作为乳腺癌标记物的研究结果,并提出基于胞外膜泡的标记物在乳腺癌临床治疗中的应用。此外本文还概述了关于乳腺癌的胞外膜泡促癌效应的最新发现并提出阻断胞外膜泡介导的信号通路作为乳腺癌治疗的一种新策略。

关键词:乳腺癌;生物学标记;外泌体;胞外膜泡;微小泡

Research progress of extracellular vesicles in breast cancer

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Abstract: Cancer-derived extracellular vesicles contain various cancer-associated molecules, such as overexpressed oncoproteins, glycoproteins, mRNAs, various non-coding RNAs and DNA fragments. They have been shown to propagate phenotypic traits, such as drug resistance, increased proliferation rate, invasiveness and to mediate cancer-induced immunosuppression. Therefore, cancer-derived extracellular vesicles have gained increasing attention as cancer biomarkers and therapeutic targets. Unlike circulating tumor cells they are highly abundant in biofluids and, on the contrary to single-molecule circulating biomarkers, they protect their molecular cargo against degradation and may carry molecular signatures associated with specific phenotypes. Herein, we summarize studies investigating extracellular vesicles biomarkers in breast cancer and propose scenarios for various clinical applications of EV-based biomarkers in the management of breast cancer. Furthermore, we provide an overview of recent findings regarding the cancer-promoting effects of breast cancer-derived extracellular vesicles and discuss opportunities for blocking EV-mediated signaling as a therapeutic strategy for breast cancer.

Key words: breast cancer; biomarkers; exosomes; extracellular vesicles; microvesicles

乳腺癌是女性最常见的肿瘤,2012年统计约有167万新发病例和52万人死亡[1]。目前诊断成像技术的进步和乳腺癌知识的宣传提高了乳腺癌早期诊断率,但是仍有33%患者出现区域性转移,5%患者发生远处转移[2]。由于不同患者肿瘤的突变和基因表达情况不同,乳腺癌在生物学特性,临床特点及治疗方式上具有高度异质性。常规治疗中我们主要考虑肿瘤分期,以及雌激素受体(ER),黄体素受体(PR),表皮生长因子2受体(HER2)和Ki-67的表达[3]。然而乳腺癌各亚型的疗效大不相同。近来,通过基因的研究确认了乳腺癌的5种分子亚型:Luminal A型、Luminal B型、HER-2过表达型、Basal-like型和Claudin低表达型[4]。这种分类方法为我们寻找一种区别肿瘤分期的新分类发法提供了有利依据,然而由于费用和技术的限制,此种分类方法还

没有被广泛应用干常规诊疗中。

过去几十年的研究中,人们越来越关注胞外膜泡,它被认为是细胞间交流的重要介质,甚至被认为是一种"液态的肿瘤活检"。胞外膜泡是一类有正常细胞或肿瘤细胞分泌于胞外基质和体液内的微小囊泡。它可以从供体细胞向受体细胞传递脂类、蛋白质、核酸,并启动一系列生理和病理反应^[57]。胞外膜泡的内容物可部分反映其细胞来源,而且肿瘤来源胞外膜泡含有肿瘤相关特异性分子,因此分析胞外膜泡内容物一定程度上揭示了肿瘤细胞的基因组成或相关分子的变化。此外,肿瘤来源胞外膜泡介导肿瘤细胞之间的信息交流,促进癌变、转移前微环境的形成和血管增生,调节肿瘤外基质,介导抗肿瘤免疫反应^[8]。抑制胞外膜泡分泌或者调节其内容物的表达也许可成为一种新的乳腺癌防治策略。

1 胞外膜泡的概述

胞外膜泡可以分为很多不同的类型,他们的细胞来

源,形成过程,分子内容物,包膜成分及大小各不相同。 目前科学界对于胞外膜泡的命名和分类还没有形成统 一的认识[9]。目前胞外膜泡有以下分类标准:(1)按细胞 来源分,可分为 prostasomes [10] 、oncosomes 等[11];(2)按 功能分类,可分为tolerosomes[12]、vexosomes[13]等;(3)按 形成过程分类,可分为外泌体(exosomes)、微囊泡 (MVs)、凋亡小体3类[14-15]。外泌体是最小的胞外膜泡, 直径约30~100 nm, 它起源于细胞内吞系统的晚期胞内 体。它的形成过程包括两部分:首先胞内体膜通过"逆 出芽"方式向内出芽形成小囊泡,包容部分细胞浆成为 多囊泡胞内体;多囊泡胞内体随之与细胞膜相融合,存 在于其内部的囊泡结构被释放到细胞外形成外泌体[6]。 MVs是较大的胞外膜泡,直径约50~1000 nm,通过包膜 "出芽"方式产生[16]。在细胞程序性死亡过程中包膜出 泡形成凋亡小体,其生理作用是防止细胞内容物泄露, 阻止炎症反应、自身免疫和组织损伤[17-18]。凋亡小体的 直径相差较大,从50 nm到5 μm。目前认为凋亡小体的 形成是导致细胞裂解的随机过程,并释放质膜包被小 泡,小泡内含细胞器和凝缩染色质,随后很快被吞噬细 胞清除。

所有胞外膜泡亚型的共同点是它们均由双层脂质包裹,内含各种各样的蛋白质和核酸。但不同亚型的胞外膜泡其包膜成分和内容物各不相同同,其内容物的调节具有细胞特异性[19]。外泌体的膜主要来自多囊泡胞内体膜,并富含四跨膜蛋白超家族(CD63, CD81, CD9)[20-23],膜转运和融合相关蛋白(Rab GTPases, annexins, flotillin等)、多囊泡胞内体产生相关蛋白(Alix,TSG101等)、分子伴侣(hsc70, hsp90)和整合素等[21]。MVs的膜是类似于细胞浆膜,但膜两面脂类的分布发生改变,磷脂酰乙醇胺暴露于MVs表面[24]。迄今为止还未有研究MVs表面具有特定的蛋白标记。调亡小体的特点是膜表面含有易被吞噬细胞识别的表面标记(N-乙酰葡萄糖胺,钙网蛋白,磷脂酰丝氨酸),而调亡小体内含有破碎DNA和组蛋白[25]。

特定类型细胞分泌的胞外膜泡表达特异性标签,如:前列腺癌细胞分泌的胞外膜泡表达前列腺癌特异性膜抗原及雄激素受体^[26],不同的上皮细胞表达EpCAM,但小肠上皮表达A33^[27]。这种特异性标签有利于我们从体液中分离组织特异性的小泡。胞外膜泡包含各种各样的RNA,如mRNA,miRNA,rRNA,lncRNA,tRNA,piRNA,这些RNA的类型及比例在不同类型EV中各不相同,主要取决于细胞类型及其生理状态。不同细胞分泌的外泌体富含的各种小RNA与少量全长rRNA^[28-31],凋亡小体含有大量的完整rRNA,而不同细胞来源的MVs中RNA种类和丰度变化较大^[30]。Lunayat等^[32]通过测序对比黑色素瘤细胞分泌的不同

EV亚型中小RNA的表达,发现不同EV亚型RNA谱表达相差巨大。Ji等河做了类似的研究发现结肠癌细胞分泌的3种EV亚型中miRNA的表达各不相同,并识别出不同EV亚型表达的miRNA交集以及特定EV亚型中表达的特定miRNA表达谱。Chevillet等对不同细胞来源外泌体中miRNA的丰度进行化学计量分析,惊人地发现每个外泌体中平均有0.00825个给定的miRNA。因此作者提出外泌体可能并不是包含特定miRNA,而是在细胞间传递miRNA。

目前已知凋亡小体内含DNA片段,随后的研究显示这些DNA片段可以随着凋亡小体被受体细胞摄取而发生转移^[33]。外泌体及微小囊泡中也存在类似的DNA片段^[37]。Thakur等^[35]发现不同肿瘤细胞分泌的外泌体含双链DNA片段,大小从10kb到100bp不等。基因组杂交对比分析显示仅部分外泌体(大约10%)含有DNA片段。Lazaro等^[34]发现前列腺癌细胞分泌的胞外膜泡均含有特定位点突变的dsDNA片段,这表明肿瘤分泌的胞外膜泡可以作为"液体活检"的工具来检测亲代肿瘤的整个突变谱,而不需要众多临床样本活检检测肿瘤基因的改变。同时胞外膜泡还可包裹DNA片段,防止它被胞浆中DNA酶的降解。但是,目前对于DNA破碎,筛选,组装进入胞外膜泡的方式了解还很少。

2 胞外膜泡在乳腺癌诊疗中的应用

2.1 胞外膜泡可以作为乳腺癌的诊断标记

不同肿瘤患者的外周血中均检测到大量胞外膜 泡[36-37],这说明胞外膜泡的表达水平可作为一种肿瘤诊 断工具。越来越多的报道证明乳腺癌患者血液及其他 体液中胞外膜泡数量升高。Galindo等[38]发现乳腺癌血 浆中胞外膜泡数量升高与肿瘤大小密切相关,但是与肿 瘤病理分期无关。许多非肿瘤性疾病也发现胞外膜泡 的数量升高,如冠心病[39],先兆子痫[40],糖尿病[41]等。因 此血液中胞外膜泡数量升高并非是肿瘤特异性诊断 标准。这同时向我们提出一个问题:癌症患者血液中胞 外膜泡来源于哪种细胞。很显然大部分胞外膜泡来自 肿瘤细胞,其内包含了肿瘤相关分子如癌基因和癌 蛋白[38,42-43]。然而炎症条件下胞外膜泡主要来自白细 胞,淋巴细胞,内皮细胞^[39],也可能来自免疫细胞。Toth 等一研究发现乳腺癌患者血液中白细胞来源的胞外膜 泡数量升高,而内皮细胞来源的胞外膜泡没有明显变 化。目前来说肿瘤患者体内胞外膜泡的主要来源以及 诱导细胞释放胞外膜泡的原因还有待确定。

与直接计数胞外膜泡相比,我们可以选择胞外膜泡内容物作为生物学标记。乳腺癌患者外周血分离出的胞外膜泡中包含各种乳腺癌相关分子和miRNA^[38,45-46]。相较于全血分析,仅分析胞外膜泡内包

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含的蛋白或小RNA可以提高诊断的敏感性和特异性, 因为这些诊断相关的分子在肿瘤分泌的胞外膜泡内富 集并且EV保护他们防止降解。Eichelser等[46]对比了乳 腺癌患者无细胞血清和胞外膜泡包含的miRNA表达水 平发现在肿瘤内过表达的miRNA在胞外膜泡中富集。 因此胞外膜泡内高表达的miR-373,而非无细胞血清, 可用来鉴别三阴性乳腺癌和管型乳腺癌,同时它与雌激 素受体和黄体素受体阴性的乳腺癌密切相关。这一发 现意味着胞外膜泡所含miRNA表达水平可用来鉴别不 同乳腺癌亚型,为无法进行肿瘤全基因组检测的患者提 供新的希望。

通过乳腺癌细胞,成纤维细胞和非致瘤细胞的蛋白 组学分析, Melo等[47]鉴定出一种细胞表面蛋白多糖, 即磷脂酰肌醇聚糖-1(GPC1),作为一种特异性肿瘤标 记物。研究发现几乎所有胰腺癌和75%乳腺癌的患者 中GPC1阳性的胞外膜泡表达升高,这一发现在临床诊 断中具有巨大潜力。首先,在肿瘤中,至少在胰腺癌中, 与之前所有已知血检生物标记相比肿瘤分泌的特定标 记胞外膜泡具有高度特异性[48]。其次,利用分析体液中 分离出肿瘤来源的EV亚群及其内容物对于发现新的药 物靶点,监测疗效至关重要。我们可以监测不断进化的 癌细胞基因组中新获得的突变位点或已丧失的基因靶 点。乳腺癌中ERBB2过表达的胞外膜泡被证实富含 HER2蛋白,检测患者体内胞外膜泡所含HER2的表达 可作为一种监测靶向HER2的疗效的工具,并可预测其 耐药性的发展[49]。然而,由于技术所限精确定量胞外膜 泡中HER2的表达或与耐药相关的酪氨酸激酶受体的 表达不太可能实现。

2.2 胞外膜泡可成为为乳腺癌的治疗靶点

众多研究表明肿瘤来源的胞外膜泡以旁分泌和全 分泌的方式促进肿瘤的发生发展,干扰抗肿瘤免疫。癌 细胞释放的胞外膜泡可以被其他肿瘤细胞,间质细胞, 正常上皮细胞、内皮细胞和肿瘤浸润的免疫学胞摄取, 通过血液或淋巴系统传播到远处器官。

乳腺癌分泌的胞外膜泡其功能可以概述为以下几 个方面:(1)高转移性乳腺癌细胞株释放胞外膜泡促进 系非恶性或非转移性细胞增殖,抑制细胞凋亡[50-51]。这 一过程部分是因为胞外膜泡转移了miR-10b至受体细 胞抑制其靶蛋白表达水平[52]或通过泡内EMMPRIN激 活p38/MAPK信号通路[45];(2)胞外膜泡可以促进血管 生成并增加血管通透性。胞外膜泡转移 miR-105 至内 皮细胞,靶向作用于ZO-1降低内皮细胞间的紧密结 合[50];(3)胞外膜泡增强了非转移性细胞的转移能 力。低转移性乳腺癌细胞通过摄取了表达mir-105的 胞外膜泡其侵袭性增强,同时这种EV破坏了血管内皮 屏障[53]。同时,Tominaga等[54]发现三阴性乳腺癌释放含 mir-181 的胞外膜泡,它能够激活血脑屏障的破坏, 促进脑转移;(4)正常乳腺上皮细胞和肿瘤相关成纤维 细胞吸收肿瘤来源胞外膜泡,可诱导ROS和自噬,产生 癌细胞生长促进因子,从而建立了肿瘤存在所需的微环 境[55];(5)调节代谢。Fong等[56]发现肿瘤来源高表达 mir-122的胞外膜泡通过下调肺成纤维细胞, 脑星形胶 质细胞和神经元的糖酵解酶丙酮酸激酶,调节能量代 谢,促进转移前微环境形成;(6)调节耐药机制。多西他 赛耐受的乳腺癌细胞分泌胞外膜泡通过转移或诱导P 糖蛋白产生,将耐药表型转移给药物敏感的细胞[57],他 莫昔芬耐受的乳腺癌细胞分泌高表达miR-221/222的 胞外膜泡传递耐药表型[58]。近来胞外膜泡包裹化疗药, 使与靶标隔离被认为是一种新的耐药机制;(7)肿瘤分 泌的胞外膜泡以多种方式干扰抗肿瘤免疫。小鼠乳腺 肿瘤细胞释放的胞外膜泡诱导髓系树突状前体细胞产 生IL-6,抑制髓系树突状细胞的分化[59]。乳腺癌来源的 胞外膜泡诱导巨噬细胞表达Wnt 5a,并分泌Wnt 5表达 阳性的胞外膜泡促进癌细胞侵袭[60]。乳腺癌分泌 胞外 膜泡还可以激活巨噬细胞内NF-Bx信号通路,促进促炎 细胞因子(IL-6、TNFα、GCSF、CCL2)刺激分泌[61]。

抑制胞外膜泡分泌或摄取,或阻断其内特定分子可 抑制胞外膜泡的促癌作用,靶向阻断胞外膜泡或其内特 定分子可成为一种新的抗癌策略。目前,大量临床前研 究显示靶向胞外膜泡疗法极具前景。Peinado等[62]用 siRNAs阻断了胞外膜泡形成所必需的两种蛋白表达 (中性鞘磷脂酶2和RAB27B),抑制了乳腺癌细胞EV 的分泌。它与前人的研究一致, 敲出 Rab27a 的小鼠黑 色素瘤细胞增殖减少,肺转移及远处定植能力降低。

Marleau 等[63]提出体外过滤血液中的胞外膜泡作为 一种新的疗法。理论上这种疗法在临床上很有价值。 例如清除Her2 阳性的胞外膜泡可能改善曲妥珠单抗的 疗效,消除EMMPRIN阳性的胞外膜泡可降低乳腺癌细 胞的侵袭性,清除GPC1阳性的胞外膜泡可能消除促癌 及免疫抑制效应。然而胞外膜泡血清过滤疗法的疗效 仍需要进一步确认。

3 总结

从最初发现胞外膜泡包含肿瘤相关分到介导促癌 和免疫抑制效应,越来越多的科学家致力于寻找新的方 法,把他们作为生物标记或治疗靶标。相对于其他循环 系统内的生物学标记胞外膜泡具有以下优势:在各种体 液中含量相对丰富,能够避免其内容物在血浆中降解, 富含各种肿瘤特异性分子可作为不同疾病的分子标 记。大量的初期研究显示相对于健康人肿瘤患者所含 胞外膜泡的数量和内容物发生改变,因此他可以作为一 种诊断标记。然而这些研究的标本量相对较小,这些研 究结果必须经过大量的标本验证才能确定其诊断价值。

近期关于胞外膜泡病理作用的研究为我们进一步揭示了胞外膜泡是如何在肿瘤细胞间传递表型特征,介导抗肿瘤免疫反应,探索了是否可以阻断胞外膜泡介导的信号通路。到目前为止,关于EV靶向治疗的前期临床试验表明它能够延缓原发瘤的生长和降低其转移能力,但不能完全阻止肿瘤生长。目前尚不清楚EV靶向疗法是否能够成为独立的癌症新疗法,然而我们确信与化疗,免疫疗法相结合可以改善疗效。然而肿瘤具有异质性,其分泌的胞外膜泡数量,内容物各不相同。因此我们需要进一步了解这种异质性的原因,并设计出更为合理的胞外膜泡靶向疗法。

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